

TNR Committee

February 21, 2024

Attendees: Members: John Talty (Chair), Councilman Perry Albanese, Catherine Daley, Zack Prawdinski (A-Academy), Scott Smith

Absent: Doreen Gesslein, Jo Anne Lambusta, Joanne Bergin

Roll Call and Welcome

Please turn all cell phones on silent

Colony Caregiver Update & Discussion

Doreen provided a report for Chairman Talty to share. In this report, items to be discussed include the colony caregiver update & discussion, the sponsor update, and the veterinarian update.

At the last meeting a meeting attendee (Kathy) suggested we put an ad on B-TV. That ad has really helped get the word out! We have been busy since we last met.

Six more people signed up as colony caregivers. (colonies 84 – 89) since the Committee last met.

The new colonies are located on Sterling Avenue, Tanglewood, White Thorn, Westwood, Sweeny and Leswing.

The tally is up to 393 feral cats that have been taken care of by TNR.

We have 70 colonies, and since the last meeting we TNR'd 13 cats: 8 females and 5 males.

In 2022 the first half year we started instituting the TNR program and working it (prior to that, we were planning, organizing finding a vet etc.) to be able to do this work. In that part of the year we did 63 TNRs. In 2023, we did 100 cats. And for 2024, so far we did 13.

TNR seems to be running and it's a little frantic. It's so busy but it's all good, Chairman Talty said.

Doreen wanted the Chairman to remind everyone that All Fur One Rescue will be having a vaccine clinic on Sunday, March 10. All Fur One is located on Hooper Avenue in Toms River. That information is posted on the TNR web site.

Doreen held a trapping class in January and will do another one at All Fur One soon; we will post that as well when we have the date.

Sometimes the trapper has a lot of work. Volunteers are needed to trap and get the cats to a clinic. Chairman Talty said our volunteers do what we can to get the trapping accomplished to prevent reproduction.

Chairman Talty asked if trappers Carol and Barbara were in the audience. They did an exceptional job in the past 6 weeks. Doreen specifically mentioned them in her report and asked they be recognized with a round of applause.

This week they trapped 5 cats in Brick.

Chairman Talty thanked Carol – she thanked the TNR people for making her feel comfortable and welcome. Barbara was not present.

Zack also got a round of applause. Chairman Talty explained that we've had many different people in this role and we've had success. Zack works for A-Academy as a contractor for Brick. Zack's work ethic is exceptional; he has a reputation as someone who does care. Doreen also wanted him thanked. Zack's quickly become the person who responds and helps pet owners find their feral cats, especially when they are found deceased. It means a lot to the caregiver to be advised by someone with empathy and kindness.

Issues or complaints - none.

TNR hotline calls/emails

Helpline calls and emails resulted in 6 new colonies – some call, some email, some leave voicemails, but we respond right away.

Chairman Talty found out there are two colonies in his neighborhood. His neighbor trapped and now has shelters for them. He also lets them in his garage. It's nice knowing they're so well cared for, he said.

The program is catching on, and continues to grow. We were so cautious at first to be protective of our caregivers and now we're finding the program is embraced. We're recognizing what people are doing and encouraging them to legalize their colonies. Chairman Talty was happy to say the locations being approved for the new colonies are good fits for the neighborhoods; they have the open space for the animals. Not overly populated areas. It's all about location, location, location.

Complaints, when we get them, are about too many cats, when we get those we intervene and share information so everyone gets along. We need to keep cats out of harm's way

TNR Rider Account

There is currently \$5,372.76 in the rider account. We'll accept donations from anyone so that we can do more work for the betterment of the entire community. The Township has not given us additional funds since they gave us seed money, although our volunteers help generate donations by selling 50/50s. We made a lot of money this past year, bringing in \$5,200! That covers care for 52 cats!

Doreen's non-profit has been doing other things for our cats that we don't pay for: flea and tick treatments before being released from the vet; de-worming, etc. Chairman Talty said she is a tremendous, tremendous asset.

2024 events

Green Fair: May 18th 10 am to 2 pm at Havens Farm at 515 Herbertsville Road, the Bob Anstett Cultural Arts Center. Chairman Talty and Catherine have worked the event before and found it very successful.

Next meeting April 3 at 5:30 pm

A member of the public wanted volunteers and donations added to the B-TV slide.

A member of the public asked how does the public know what the donation is for the month at Town Hall? It is not advertised anywhere, but we follow a generally consistent calendar: September is back to school supplies, November is a food drive for Thanksgiving; December Toys for tots, etc. She would like a listing on B-TV.

Another member asked if we have we ever tried to run something through the senior complexes to see if they will allow a bin there.